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HOBBIES: Traveling, going out to eat & trying new foods, canoeing, camping

FAVORITE MUSIC ARTIST/GROUP: Rap/hip hop (especially Outkast)

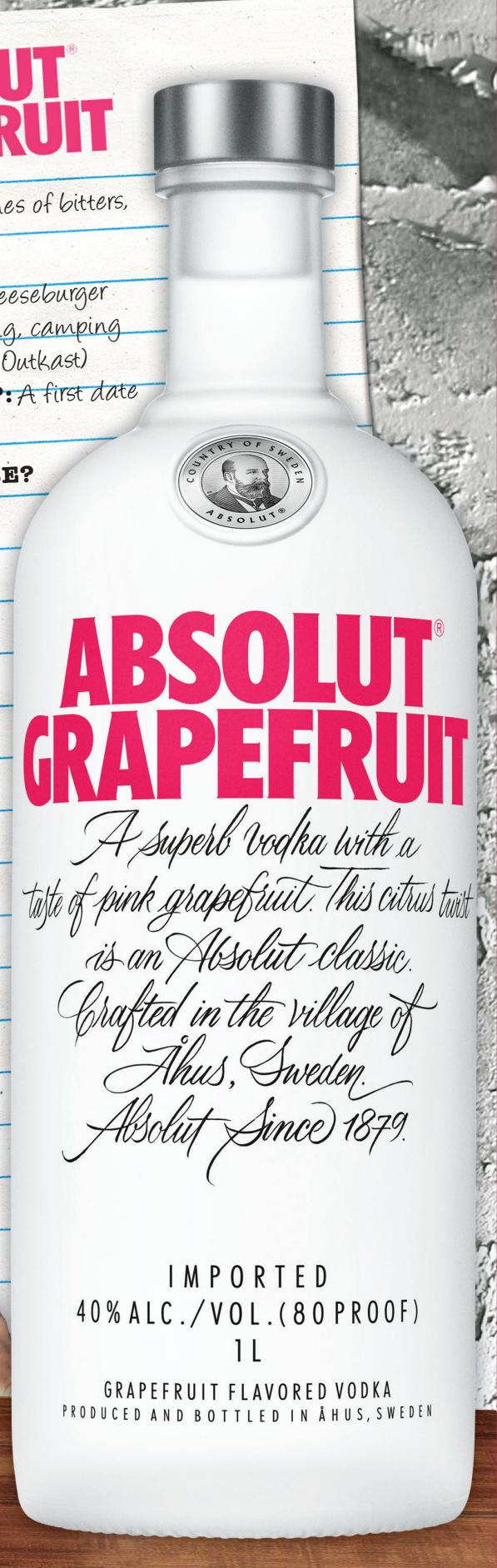
WHAT'S THE WORST DATE YOU'VE EVER WITNESSED?: A first date including notecards filled with 'fun facts and questions' to ask if the conversation dies down

IF YOU WEREN'T A BARTENDER, WHAT WOULD YOU BE?
A photographer

IF YOU COULD TRADE PLACES WITH ANY OTHER PERSON FOR A WEEK, WITH WHOM WOULD IT BE?:
Zelda Fitzgerald

IF YOU WERE FORCED TO GET A TATTOO, WHAT WOULD IT BE?: A walleye

BEST HANGOVER CURE? Coffee, a soda, water, and veggies



CITY PAGES

August 29-September 4, 2018

VOLUME 38 | NUMBER 1969



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NEW STATE FAIR FARE

Skip, shrug, or scarf? We share our ratings of 2018's rookies. *By CP Staff*

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THE SHORTLIST



DARIN KAMNETZ

THE STAT SHEET

28%

Decline in ticket revenue from Gopher sports over the past three years.

33%

Plunge in robberies committed in Minneapolis so far this year.

222,194

Saturday's attendance at the State Fair, which broke the previous first-Saturday attendance record by 20,000 people.

57

Percentage of Minnesota high school football teams that saw a decline in participation over the past three years, mostly attributed to safety concerns.

“This new version is about 0.1% better.”

Reader Tony Nelson responds to “Cities 97 dramatically rebrands as Cities 97.1,” at citypages.com.

CANDIDATE HATE

IF YOU'RE THINKING of voting against Keith Ellison for attorney general, you may wish to consider the alternative. That's Doug Wardlow, Republican nominee and guy who makes his living bagging on gay people.

Wardlow is a lawyer for the Alliance Defending Freedom, whose view of “freedom” largely centers on criminalizing homosexuality, fighting same-sex marriage, and thwarting the aspirations of the transgendered under a flag of “religious liberty.”

Imagine having an attorney general who only defends those who meet the approval of Mean Jesus. It's kind of like voting for a Klansman as union steward at a kosher meat packing plant.

POPULAR STORIES AT CITYPAGES.COM

U.S.-BORN AMERICAN CITIZEN
in country legally charged in teen's death

Every new Minnesota **STATE FAIR BEER**, ranked according to how Minnesotan it is

FOX MEETS BEAR's Johnna Holmgren selling her whimsy-loaded Minnesota house

MAMA SHEILA'S now quietly serving up soul food excellence in south Minneapolis

See a jaw-dropping photo of slacklining on Minnesota's **NORTH SHORE**

PRIDE RADIO DIES

Nation's first LGBTQ station is replaced by sports talk

“Where is Britney Spears and what have you done with her?”

This must have been the first thought listeners had Monday morning when they tuned in to 96.7 on their radio dial.

Another: “Why are they going on and on about someone or something called Sam Darnold at 8 a.m.?”

Pride Radio, a source for dance, electronica, and upbeat Top 40 aimed at an LGBTQ audience, has been replaced by something called “KFAN Plus,” a station featuring “both local and national sports news.”

The station will now feature the voices of Dan Patrick, Colin Cowherd, and Clay Travis—or as iHeartRadio’s program director Chad Abbot called them in a press release, “some of the biggest and well-known national names in sports radio.”

When it launched in 2015 during Pride Month, Pride Radio was heralded as the nation’s first FM station dedicated entirely to an LGBTQ audience. The “ground-breaking station” was to feature acts like Madonna, Sam Smith, and Katy Perry, while also becoming a “platform for the [LGBTQ] community.”

Monday’s announcement about KFAN Plus ditched those lofty ambitions for the pragmatic promise of “even more around the clock, exclusive sports news content.”

Asked about the change, a spokesperson for iHeart (which also operates KDWB, KOOL 108, and K102, among other Twin Cities stations) said the following:

“Sports fans in Minneapolis are very passionate and loyal, and we believe KFAN Plus will resonate well with our listeners. Listeners can continue to enjoy Pride Radio programming anywhere they are on Pride Radio KDWB-HD2 or iheart-radio.com.”



COURTNEY PEDROZA

Asked if the company was getting feedback, positive or negative, about its formatting switch, the spokesperson demurred. Here’s some from the Pride Radio Facebook page:

“All my friends are freaking out pride radio went off the air, we loved it on FM!”

“I would really appreciate a post/tweet/anything with additional information about the abrupt change of 96.7 Pride Radio to

KFAN Plus. What is happening to Pride Radio in the Twin Cities? You commented on another post that it’s moving to a different HD Radio frequency. When? Will the frequency be on HD1 and/or simulcast so we can hear the station on normal FM? This station is loved by the community here. It was extremely upsetting and disappointing to wake up to [KFAN Plus] suddenly being on-air.”—MIKE MULLEN

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Western Civilization on Trial

Blaine's choice: Homophobe Confederate or Muslim family man?

It's a bold move to ask for a promotion and raise two months after you resign in shame. Yet boldness was never Nolan West's problem. Bigotry was.

In fall 2016, after 21 months as a legislative aide, West, then 25, was running for an open seat representing Blaine in the Minnesota House.

That September, City Pages ran a story about West's years-long history of racist and homophobic social media diatribes. There were posts about the Confederacy (loved it), Abe Lincoln ("worst president"), and "fagballs."

On the eve of Barack Obama's 2008 election, he wrote, "IT'S LYNCHING TIME."

The next day, West was out of a job... but still on the ballot and suddenly regretful for "insensitive material" that didn't "reflect who I am or what I believe."

Enough of Blaine's voters either bought this mea culpa or didn't know about it. That November, West beat retired school teacher Susan Witt by less than 1 percent.

Blaine has an eccentric recent history, voting for Tom Emmer but against Michele Bachmann; against Al Franken but for Donald Trump (by 4 percent) and Amy Klobuchar (by 30).

This year, in a topsy-turvy district with a vulnerable incumbent, the DFL's standing up one hell of a candidate. He's an articulate, soft-spoken family man who traded Brooklyn for Blaine to raise his children and be closer to his parents. Know him, and you'll know the least interesting fact is his name.

"Some people see the lawn signs and are wondering, 'Who is this guy?'" Amir Malik says. "It's my job to introduce myself."

Malik, 40, has been doing that since last summer, when he started door-knocking in

House District 37B. He's there to hear their stories, and to tell his own. His Pakistani parents emigrated in the 1970s when his father, a University of Illinois grad, took a job as a food scientist for Pillsbury in Hoopeston, Illinois (population 5,000). Later, mom and dad moved to Golden Valley, closer to the parent company.

Malik followed dad's footsteps for undergrad, then went to New York University Law School. While in college, friends set him up with a Pakistani woman, and the couple soon fell in love on chaperoned dates. They married, and Malik started a job at a hot-shot law firm, defending banks and pharmaceutical companies.

"I doubt we worked for a company valued at less than \$10 billion," he says. He filled his savings account but opened a void. This was not the life he wanted.

What he wanted was for his kids to have a childhood like his. He found it in Blaine. "A block away from our home is a park, where we can drag a kayak into the lake and paddle around," he says. "A couple blocks the other way, we play baseball."

His clients are different now, too. As civil rights director for the Council of American-Islamic Relations-Minnesota (CAIR), Malik meets with people who don't know where else to turn—discrimination victims, those mistreated at work or on the streets.

One was a white woman who tried speaking Somali to strangers on a light-rail platform one winter night. A passerby mistook the woman's scarf for a hijab and stabbed her.

Others have been unjustly fired, barred from prayer breaks at work, or have kids who've been bullied in school. They're usually poor and overworked. Malik's job

is often to be the first person who'll listen.

Brandon Taitt, his DFL opponent in this year's endorsement fight, says Malik's candidacy has reached another group not often heard—or heard from. "There are probably about 700 Muslim families in Blaine," Taitt says, "and a lot of them have not generally been heavy voters in the past."

When Malik won, those constituents approached Taitt, graciously asking him to stay involved. Invitation accepted: Not long ago, Taitt was out hammering in the "Malik for Minnesota" lawn signs that now dot the district.

Malik hopes to win an issues-based campaign, and says Republicans, Nolan West among them, spoiled the 2018 legislative session by wrapping every possible issue into "a 990-page mega-bill," an obvious violation of the Minnesota Constitution.

"They like to compare themselves to the private sector," Malik says. "I worked in the private sector. If you do something like that, security comes and watches you while you put all your stuff in a box."

Malik's corporate experience left him with rare insight about healthcare profiteers and big business, whose secret codes he can read from the inside out. "Let's just say I learned a lot about the pharmaceutical industry, and transparency, and fairness in business and taxes," he says, chuckling.

Don't expect those corporate interests to care about fairness toward him. In 2016, a late flood of corporate money from the Minnesota Jobs Coalition—a front for the Chamber of Commerce, among others—targeted Susan Witt as literally an anvil over the heads for senior citizens. "And of course, I was a senior," Witt recalls, tartly.

Imagine what they'll be suggesting about



Mike Mullen

a guy called Amir Malik.

Republicans, meanwhile, have decided that even if Nolan West is a Confederate homophobe, at least he's their Confederate homophobe. House Speaker Kurt Daudt, who in 2016 said Nolan's thoughts about gays, feminists, and the Union Army were "inappropriate and wrong," had come around by 2017, enough to appear at a fundraiser for West. (West declined to comment for this column. So did Daudt.)

The fear-mongering fliers will rain down, no doubt, but to discount Malik would be to discount Blaine itself.

In 2015, as the City Council considered approving a tiny Muslim school (student count: about 20), a few dozen people expressed "concern." Seven times that many came out in support. Longtime mayor Tom Ryan hushed the haters, saying Blaine's Muslims are "our neighbors, our attorneys, engineers, our dentists."

And maybe their next state rep, if enough meet Amir Malik on their doorsteps. CP

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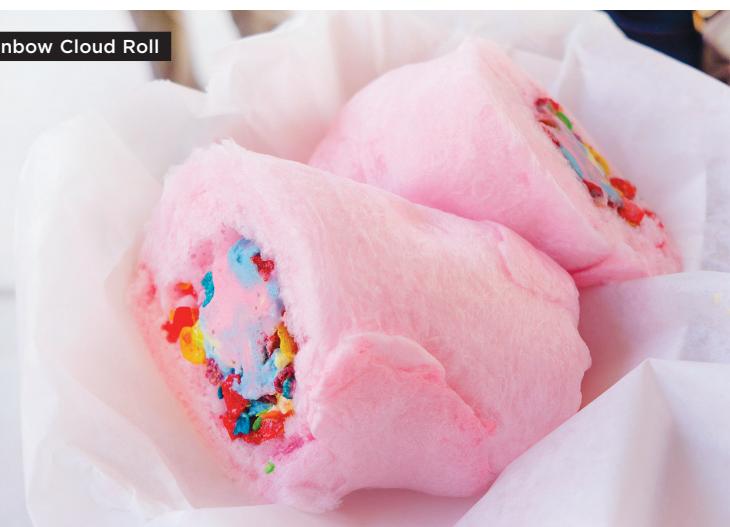
Walk starts at 10 a.m.



Nordic Waffle



Mangonada Shave Ice



Rainbow Cloud Roll



Irish Tater Kegs

ALL PHOTOS JERARD FAGERBERG, LUCY HAWTHORNE (SHAVE ICE PHOTO)

Skip, Shrug, or Scarf?

The notable newbies of the 2018 Minnesota State Fair

BY JESSICA ARMBRUSTER, JAY BOLLER, SARAH BRUMBLE, EMILY CASSEL,
JERARD FAGERBERG, KEITH HARRIS, AND MIKE MULLEN

Throw on your finest Uff Da T-shirt and prepare to promptly drizzle hot grease down the front of it: 2018's Great Minnesota Get Together is in full swing.

It's the year's best excuse to risk instant diabetes, and your friends at City Pages spent a day eating all the Official New State Fair Foods, ranking them with our highly scientific Skip, Shrug, Scarf! system. Here are 16 of the buzzworthy rookies to try before September 3, and a full rundown is available at citypages.com. Because you can't—or at least, shouldn't—eat them all yourself. There are some real clunkers out there.

MANGONADA SHAVE ICE

Mango-flavored shave ice drizzled with Mexican chamoy sauce, dusted with tajin chili powder, topped with popping mango boba pearls, and served with a tamarind candy straw. At Minnesnowii Shave Ice, \$6

This, folks, is the ultimate fair refreshment on a steamy day. Expertly spiced and popping with color, the mountain of fluffy ice sneaks subtle mango flavor throughout and has a sweetness that deliciously intermingles with the kick of chamoy and chili. Those generously sprinkled boba balls? They pop triumphant, just like sugary

caviar. The mad flavor scientists behind this treat, armed with the knowledge that ice melts, even incorporated a tamarind-encrusted straw. Genius! Big enough for two, it's a thrifitily delightful dessert.

Verdict: Scarf!

IRISH TATER KEGS

Jumbo deep-fried tater tots made with corned beef, sauerkraut, Swiss cheese, sour cream, and potatoes with house-made Thousand Island dressing on a bed of sauerkraut. At O'Gara's at the Fair, \$8

Irish Tater Kegs sounds like the name of

the world's most redheaded rugby team, but it's actually the latest letdown from O'Gara's (who last year brought you the offensively bad deep-fried avocado). They're coming from the what-if-we-ruined-something-good school of thought again in 2018, taking everything that rules about tots—their crackly crunch, their bite-sized poppability—and getting rid of it. These mushy monsters are more like deep-fried mashed potatoes, with mini meat hunks that only further screw up the texture. The sauce asks, "What if we made Thousand Island, but more mayo-y?" And, like the namesake keg, they're heavy: These bad

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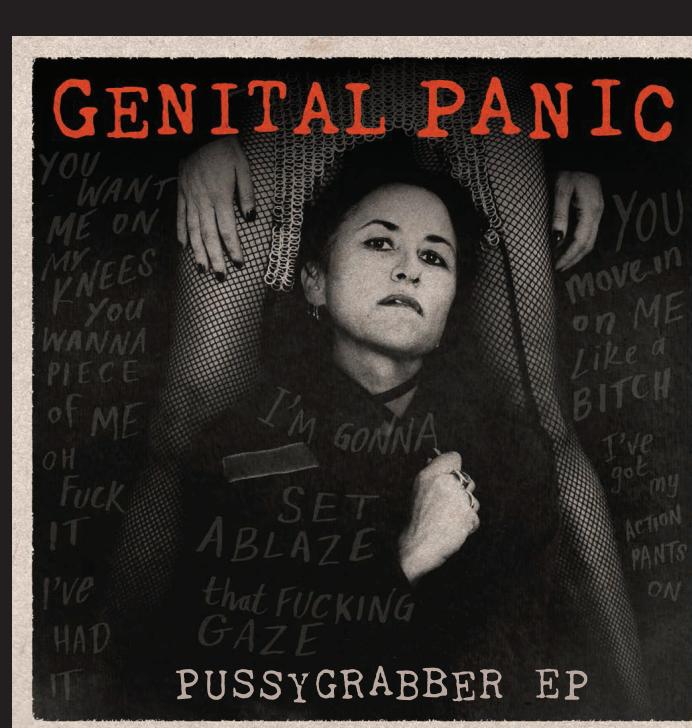
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Slider Flights



boys'll sit in your stomach a full 24 hours.

Verdict: *Skip*

SLIDER FLIGHTS

Flights of three slider sandwiches (brisket, burgers, or pulled pork), each with a variety of toppings. At the Hangar, \$10

The Hangar is a promising new vendor located on the north end of the fairgrounds, a breezy, corrugated space with the open-plan layout of a modern brewery. The "slider flight" is the centerpiece of its meat-laden menu, with brisket, beef, or pulled pork as your options. We tried the pork, and though the differences between the flight's three iterations are minimal—one has serviceable slaw, another crispy fried onion, the third gargantuan pickle slices—the tangy barbecue sauce and tender pork are what really matter here. Nothing fancy, but at 10 bucks, a solid, hearty meal.

Verdict: *Shrug*

RAINBOW CLOUD ROLL

Three scoops of ice cream (Superman, vanilla, strawberry, or chocolate) sprinkled with fruity cereal and wrapped in a pillow of cotton candy. Hand-rolled on-site. At Rainbow Ice Cream, \$8

When we ordered the rainbow cloud roll, the cashier encouraged us to photograph the process and post it to Instagram. It was good advice—the rainbow roll is an utterly fascinating creation. Two people stopped us on the walk from the stand to the table where we ate it, marveling at the kaleidoscopic Lisa Frank burrito. The flavor did not disappoint, either: As you bite through the pillow layer of cotton candy, the sugar crystallizes, crunching right along with the Fruity Pebbles surrounding the filling. Do yourself a favor and get it with the Superman rainbow sherbert. Absolutely

delightful and tons of fun.

Verdict: *Scarf!*

MESSY GIUSEPPE

A blend of seasoned ground beef and Italian pork sausage smothered in marinara, sprinkled with Parmesan cheese and served on crusty Italian bread. At Mancini's al Fresco, \$7.75

Although it resembles one, the Messy Giuseppe isn't a cafeteria-grade sloppy joe—it's much, much worse. Upon first bite, you're assaulted with sodium, rendering the dish almost inedible. It's like someone pulled the ol' loosened salt shaker prank over the meaty crumbles. Surely, Mancini's can't mess up the Messy Giuseppe's bread... right? Wrong! Billed as crusty, the actual product serves as a squishy bed for the sauce-soaked main event. Somehow, even the pepperoncini graded out poorly.

Verdict: *Skip*

HONEY CREAM SODA FLOAT

Honey cream soda (made without sugar) poured over Minnesota Grown honey ice cream. At Minnesota Honey Producers Association, \$9

Here's the thing: This is a delight of a dessert. The effervescent, honey-essenced soda is a damn dream. Would buy bottled. The ice cream? So creamy and just-right sweet, Ben and Jerry should be nervous.

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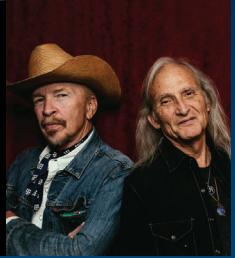
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7 PM
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Ronettes



SEP 6
7 PM
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Jimmie Dale
Gilmore
(backed by
The Guilty Ones)



SEP 7-9
7 PM
Davina &
The Vagabonds



SEP 10
7 PM
Johnny A.
*Just Me...
And My Guitars*



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7 PM
Robert
Robinson &
Gwen Matthews



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7 PM
Jesse Colin
Young



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The Music of
Al Jarreau with
Bruce Henry



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SEP 20
7 PM
Jonatha Brooke



SEP 21
7 PM
Terry Bozzio



SEP 22
7 PM
Nachito Herrera



SEP 23
7 PM
A Tribute to
Aretha Franklin
with Ginger
Commodore



SEP 25-26
7 PM
Madeleine
Peyroux



SEP 27:
7 PM
SEP 28:
7 & 9 PM
Nooky Jones



OCT 1
7 PM
Matt Andersen
*Powerhouse
Soul Vocals*





Wood-Grilled Elote



Zesty PB&J Sausage

JERARD FAGERBERG

It's refreshing on a hot day. The velvety texture is liquid luxury. But for nine bucks? Sure, bees have to fly more than 55,000 miles to make a single pound of honey, but it's still sort of tough to justify trekking to the nearest ATM and shelling out that much for a float.

Verdict: Shrug

WOOD-GRILLED ELOTE

Corn on the cob grilled over an oak wood fire, brushed with chile-spiced mayo and sprinkled with queso cotija and fresh lime juice. At Tejas Express, \$5

For all you basic corn gobblers out there not looking for saucy kernel action, the vanilla (read: butter only) corn stand is located on Nelson Street. For everyone else favoring bonus flavor, your new ticket to happiness is the wood-grilled elote. Thanks to a blanket of a chile mayo (smokier than it is spicy), a healthy dose of lime, plus just enough salty cotija cheese and minced cilantro, this sexy little beast ensures you'll forget that, beneath all that piquant goodness, you're actually annihilating a vegetable.

Verdict: Scarf!

ZESTY PB&J SAUSAGE

Peanut butter, cherry jelly, and a hint of cayenne pepper and cilantro blended into a quarter-pound sausage. At Gass Station Grill, \$6

We thought melding sausage and a children's lunch sandwich could only go two ways: either dazzle us by pulling a perfect culinary rabbit out of a hat, or provide (the expected) gross schadenfreude by way of ground meat pulsating with peanut butter, cherries, and spices. Unfortunately, Gass Station Grill made a lovely, kinda-spicy sausage

that, were we none the wiser, we'd never know sounded like a nightmare on paper. Would we eat it again? Absolutely. Is it being docked a bunch of points for breaking the most basic rule of all ("be what you say you are")? You betcha. Weird sausage not as billed.

Verdict: Shrug

AHI TUNA POKE BOWL

Ahi tuna, avocado, mango, and pico de gallo tossed in a Hawaiian ginger-soy sauce served cold over rice with a fried wonton. At Café Caribe, \$9.50

Visually, you're looking at bougie dog food. The mini-blocks of ahi tuna—some bits mush, some bits rough—are a vaguely fishy letdown. When they're combined with pico de gallo, avocado, and mango, a slimy, mostly flavorless glop is your reward. Up top, the fried wonton crumbles uselessly; down low, the piping-hot rice warms everything into a room-temp mélange of regret. Trust your instincts: Avoid raw fish at the fair.

Verdict: Skip

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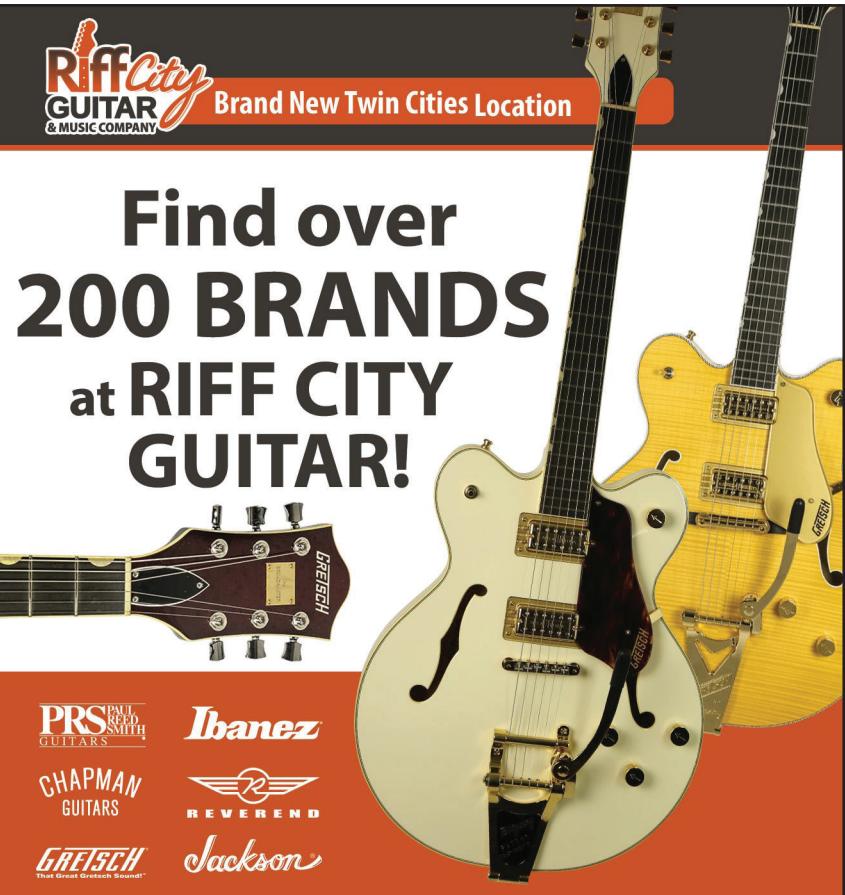


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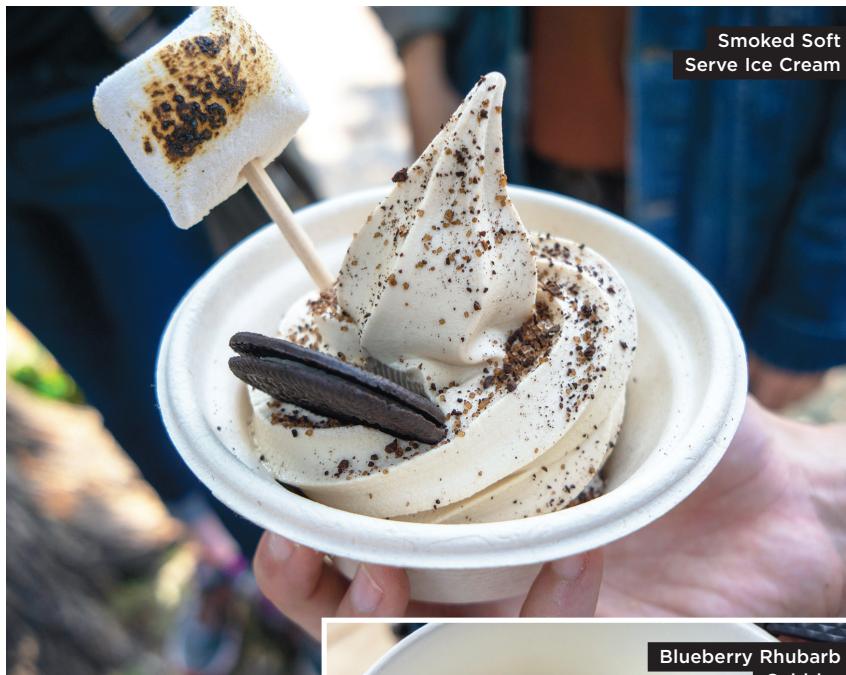
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Ikea. In both the savory and sweet varieties we tried, the waffles sported crisp edges with an overall chewy, crepe-like texture befitting their role as contents-wranglers. The Slammin Salmon on a Stick (\$10) is delicious and shockingly generous in its smoked-salmon-to-cream-cheese ratio, even if the actual waffle-on-a-stick felt more cumbersome than effective.

On the sweet side, the S'more (\$7) was sweet but unexpectedly finishable, owing to a pleasant balance between its Nutella, marshmallow creme, and crunchy graham guts. Now consider that it took a half-hour to navigate their line... at 10 a.m. Only you can decide for yourself if, at the end of that wait, a waffle will end up making you a crabbier or happier person.

Verdict: Scarf!



JERARD FAGERBERG

FIRECRACKER SHRIMP-STUFFED AVOCADO

Gulf white shrimp tossed with lime, onion, black beans, tomato, and fire-roasted corn in a garlic aioli, drizzled with cilantro-infused olive oil, stuffed in avocado halves, and served open-face with flatbread. At the Hideaway Speakeasy, \$14

The ways in which the Hideaway's stuffed avocado is despicable are legion. First, there's the sloppy, watery seafood salad they try to pass off as "firecracker shrimp." It tastes like the filter of an aquarium. Then there's the avocado, which cups the salad poorly, mayo runoff pooling in the center where the pit used to be. Next, the crackers. Brittle on the outside and spongy in the middle, they're closer to cardboard than the "flatbread" the Hideaway sells them as. Most insulting: the price. Fourteen of your hard-earned dollars for what amounts to cafeteria slop served up on the trendy foodstuff du jour.

Verdict: Skip

SMOKED SOFT SERVE ICE CREAM

Cold-smoked cream available in two flavors: Cold Brew Coffee infused with cold-smoked Arabica beans or Muscovado Sugar Vanilla. At Blue Moon Dine-In Theater, \$7-\$8

This. This is what you need for breakfast. Why waste time surviving two lines to find a snack and a caffeine wake-up, separately, when both desires are met so sweetly in this little cup? A swirl of unremarkable-looking ice cream is wedged with a thin Oreo and just-charred marshmallow on a stick, cute accompaniments there to remind you you're swooning for this dish at a state fair. Without them, you'd mistake this for your send-off at a diner you dream about. One piled-up serving size is probably big enough to share, but don't sell your sweet tooth short.

Verdict: Scarf!

BLUEBERRY RHUBARB COBBLER

A blend of organic blueberries and rhubarb topped with a cornmeal biscuit and whipped cream. At Farmers Union Coffee Shop, \$8

Don't go looking for bits of fruit in this dish, as all of the ingredients have been

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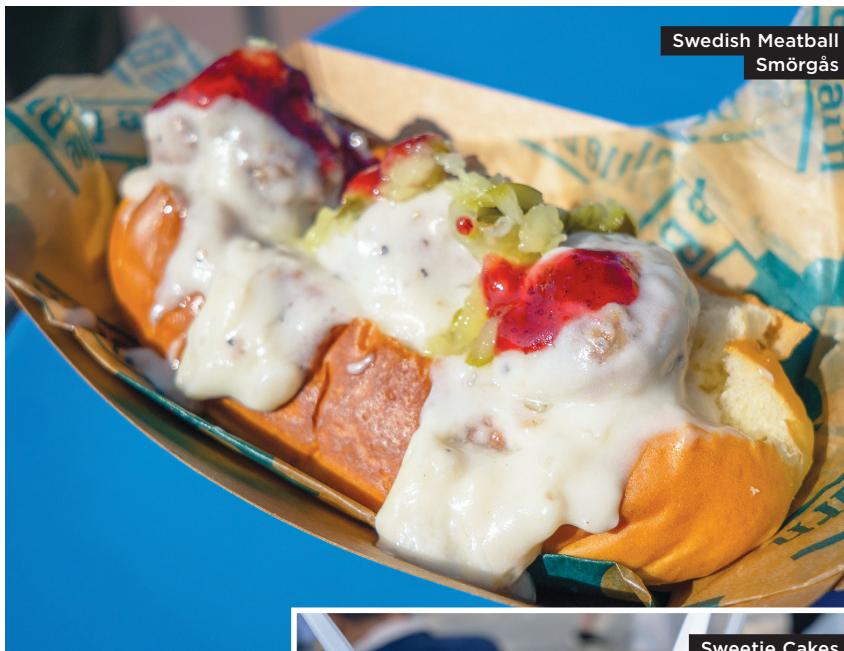
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Swedish Meatball
Smörgås

boiled down to a rich, smoothie-like compote. And dang, that compote is tasty. Blueberry is the dominant flavor, but the rhubarb plays an important role here, adding a pleasant tartness that keeps everything from being cloyingly sweet. The cornmeal biscuit is inconsequential, but it does what it needs to do: get that sweet sauce from the bowl to your mouth, ASAP.

Verdict: Scarf!

SWEDISH MEATBALL SMÖRGÅS

Meatball sandwich with three traditional Swedish pork and beef meatballs topped with white gravy, lingonberry sauce, and dill pickles. At the Blue Barn, \$8.95

More like sweet-ish meatballs. The chopped pickle trying to pass itself off as relish, the seasoned Elmer's glue calling itself gravy, the balls of meat that technically do meet the minimum requirements to qualify as "meatballs," the unremarkable hot dog bun that dares the foolhardy to expect it to support the goopy contents—everything about this concoction is weirdly candied and sugary. The lingonberry, which should be there to cut against the savory, adds yet another unnecessary layer of sweetness.

Verdict: Skip

PEPPERONI CHIPS WITH ROASTED RED PEPPER QUESO

Thinly sliced fried pepperoni chips served with a warm roasted red pepper cheese sauce. At LuLu's Public House, \$7

Poor queso. It could not have known it was giving its life in service of such an ill-advised item. Take everything you like

SWEETIE CAKES

Black forest cake, birthday cake, or chocolate peanut butter cake, baked in a cup packed with Sassy Pecan toffee bits and served warm, topped with real whipping cream and more toffee bits. At Sweetie Cakes, \$7

Cakey nirvana. Served hot from the oven, the Sweetie Cake is an avalanche of deliciousness. We tried the chocolate peanut butter variety, a cup full of pillow-y cake swirling with molten chocolate and PB. Flavor-wise, it's a Butterfinger bar. Texturally, it's a heavenly romp through all things crumbly, gooey, and whipped. There was no line when we arrived, but expect that to change in a major way.

Verdict: Scarf!



JERARD FAGERBERG

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FOOD

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La Loma Tamales, Qdoba, Chipotle, even Taco John's: The Minneapolis skyway is home to plenty of Mexican fare. Do we really need more?

If it comes in the form of tacos and pozole from Los Ocampo Express, the answer is a definitive yes.

The former Baja Sol space in City Center has been transformed into the local chain's newest counter-service location. While there was already a significant line when we arrived at 11:30 on a recent morning, service was friendly and efficient, with an auxiliary iPad-wielding cashier to prevent a backup at the register.

As far as the menu, it's the classic fast-casual format: Pick your entree, then your meat, and add the toppings. What makes Los Ocampo stand out from other skyway Mexican spots is the wealth of choices. Sure, there are tacos, burritos, and bowls, but you can also get a piping-hot platter of pozole or a machete—a griddled masa cake filled with meat and melted cheese. There are 10 meat options, including carnitas, barbacoa, chorizo, and Mexican-style steak, plus seven different salsas.

Grab a paper copy of the menu to study while you wait in line, since the menu board's white-on-black text was a bit tricky to read. We opted for the pozole (which includes

a tostada on the side), an al pastor taco, and a machete served with sides of rice and beans. While we enjoyed everything we

sampled—the comfort-in-a-bowl pozole was loaded with tender shreds of chicken and the al pastor was well-seasoned—the machete was the standout. Instead of meat, we ordered it filled with poblano vegetables, a blend of corn, mushrooms, and poblano peppers. The flavor combination of fire-roasted peppers, melted cheese, and crisp masa cake was supremely satisfying, but without the overwhelming heaviness that would necessitate an afternoon nap.

Los Ocampo offers the best of both worlds: Crowd-pleasing standards plus Mexican dishes and flavors you usually have to leave the skyway to track down. With weekday hours from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.), you don't need to be a downtown cube dweller to appreciate City Center's tasty new tenant. — BY STACY BROOKS

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A LIST

FRIDAY MetaCon geeks out **P. 25**

SATURDAY A '90s dance party **P. 27**

TUESDAY Acme's funniest person finale **P. 31**

WEDNESDAY 8.29

ART/GALLERY

ART FOR ALL

THE MINNEAPOLIS CLUB

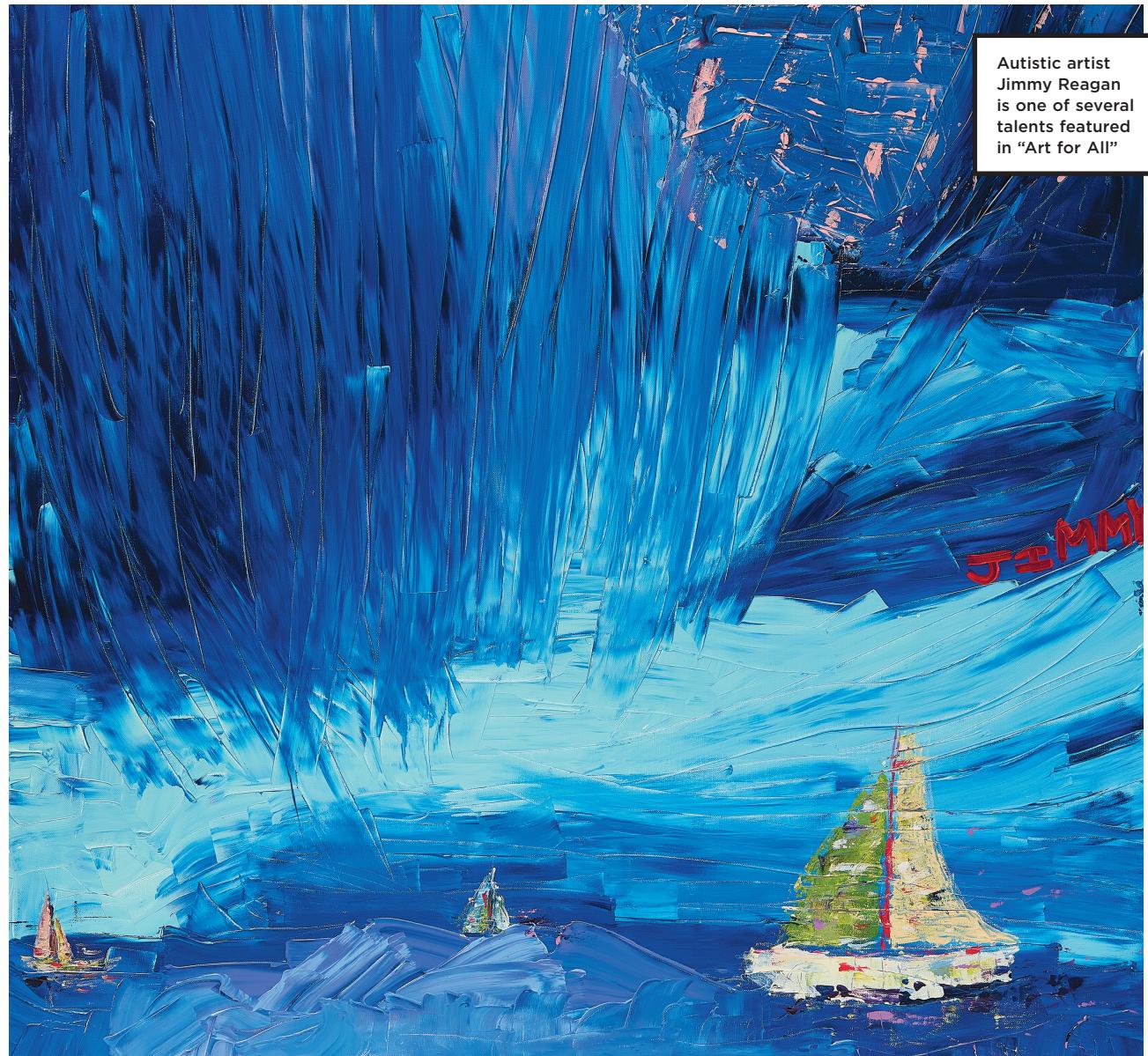
Though Mendota Heights-based Jimmy Reagan has lived with autism and mast cell disease since childhood, he's managed to carve out an impressive art career as an adult. The 25-year-old's bold pastel and oil paintings of people, places, and animals have been exhibited in galleries as far-flung as Berlin and Italy. His signature brushstrokes, called "tick marks," adorn silk ties and scarves sold in shops like MartinPatrick3. The untrained, award-winning painter is visibly influenced by some of his favorite artists, including Van Gogh and Picasso, while his own style continues to evolve. Reagan is the kind of artist who keeps viewers guessing from one painting to the next. On Wednesday, he joins Katharine Fitzgerald, Ingrid Hansen, Jon Leverenz, and Geoffrey Mikol in "Art for All: The Stephanie Evelo Fund for Art Inclusion," an event at the Minneapolis Club that highlights work by artists with disabilities. In addition to the eye candy, enjoy hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, and conversation with the artists themselves. 5 to 7 p.m. Free. RSVP at 612-810-7766. 729 Second Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-332-2292. —ERICA RIVERA

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Ahmed Bharoocha grew up in Southern California and is a proper hockey fan. "I played when I was a kid," he explains, "but it was roller hockey in California. Gretzky was on the Kings, so it was the cool thing to do." In high school, he moved with his family to New England where he started playing ice hockey. "That was lot tougher, especially playing with kids who had played on the ice since they were two." Checking was the biggest adjustment. "You can't do that in roller hockey," he notes. But he became a better player, and now plays ice hockey whenever



JIMMY REAGAN, *THE STORM*

he gets the chance. Onstage, he talks a lot about his background. He was born to an Irish-American mom and a Pakistani dad. "They're both different religions, and they both still practice their own religions," he notes. "It was a really interesting way to grow up, having parents who believe in two different things but still respect each other. It really taught me to be open to people with different views, so that

comes into my set a little bit." 18+. 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$15-\$18. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. **Through Saturday —P.F. WILSON**

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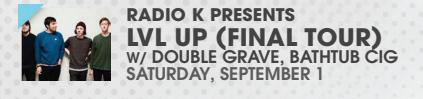


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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

OLIVIA GATWOOD

W/ JOAQUINA MERTZ,

SIERRA DEMULDER

THE CEDAR

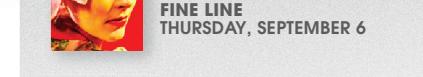


THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

AMANDA SHIRES

W/ LEAH BLEVINS

FINE LINE



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

PROF OUTDOORS 5

W/ LIL B,

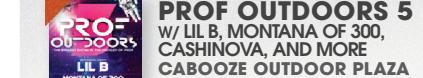
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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

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W/ OUGHT

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WEDNESDAY

FESTIVAL

4-H LLAMA
COSTUME CONTEST

MINNESOTA STATE FAIRGROUNDS

There are plenty of weird things to discover at the Minnesota State Fair. There is butter sculpted to look like beauty queens. There are giant pigs with names like Rocky the Boar and Pigzilla. There are intricate images constructed with tiny seeds. While all of these things are worth checking out, some of the best people- and animal-watching can be found at the llama costume contest. Llamas will be dressed up with their humans to match in what feels like a farm-style beauty pageant. Previous years have featured llamas dressed like bumble bees, bride and groom entrants, and even some Lady Gaga-inspired efforts. This isn't the only fashion show hosted by the Great Minnesota Get-Together, but it's probably the most endearing. Find complete details at www.mnstatefair.org. 6 p.m. Free (gate admission is \$9-\$14). Compeer Arena on Judson Avenue at Stevens Street (right next to the horse barn), St. Paul; 651-288-4400. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER



MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

CONTINUED FROM WEDNESDAY ▶

Revolutionary War, but humanizes the scale with deeply personal crises. The allegiances and animosities that spark the passions of *Hamilton* convey a contemporary resonance, emphasized by Miranda's decision to cast non-white performers as the historical figures and score the action to a musical mélange of hip-hop, jazz, pop, and showtunes. Though historically anachronistic, these choices prove culturally veracious, linking the past to the present with timeless notions of our most deeply held (though often unrealized) ideals. Ticket-seekers should be on the lookout for an expected release of additional seats, and pre-show lotteries can be entered via the official *Hamilton* app, offering winners the bargain price of \$10 a ticket (limit two). 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Saturdays; 1 p.m. Sundays. For additional showtimes, go to www.hennepintheatrertrust.org. \$79-\$479. 910 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-339-7007. **Through October 7** —BRAD RICHASON

THURSDAY 8.30

COMEDY

DEAN DELRAY

RICK BRONSON'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

Musicians becoming comedians seems to be a trend these days. Recently, we spoke to Ben Roy, who balances music and standup, and recently performed at

the House of Comedy. This week, HOC welcomes Dean Delray, a musician who switched to standup full-time. "Basically, I realized because of illegal downloads my music career was going to be over," he explains. "The big acts can make their money on touring." While working at a Harley Davidson dealership, he landed a role in a Quentin Tarantino-produced film (*Hell Ride*), followed by one in a movie with Ice Cube (*The Longshots*). The latter featured several comedians who eventually encouraged Delray to try standup. During his set, he talks about being a 52-year-old man who started doing comedy at the age of 44. "I also talk about how people think it's weird, at my age, that I've been single my whole life, that I don't have a family, and that I don't have a real job. I think that's hilarious." But Delray is living the dream. "Most of my friends are divorced and they tell me, 'Man, you did it right.'" 16+. 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 9:45 p.m. Friday; 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; 9 p.m. Saturday. \$16-\$23. 408 E. Broadway, Mall of America, Bloomington; 952-858-8558. **Through Sunday** —P.F. WILSON

FRIDAY 8.31

COMEDY

TAKE MY WIFE... INSTEAD

COMEDY CORNER UNDERGROUND

If you've ever watched a comedian and thought, "I wonder what that person's husband/wife/partner thinks of these

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27 ▶

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Program support



CONTINUED FROM FRIDAY ▶

jokes?" this is your chance to find out. Back by popular demand, Comedy Corner Underground's Take My Wife... Instead features the significant others of some of the area's best local comedians performing their material onstage in the ultimate comedy role-reversal. While it may sound like a clever marketing scheme for marriage counseling, the show has been a huge hit in past years both with fans and performers alike. Each person will get a five-minute set, allowing him or her to pick and choose their favorite (or most hated) jokes that they've undoubtedly had to listen to until their ears bled. Romantic partners of comedians Robert Baril, Courtney Baka, and Philip Kolas will perform, followed by headliner sets from husband-and-wife comedians Ellie Hino and Casey Nelson. There are two nights of shows to choose from, which means it'll be a Freaky Friday and a Freaky Saturday. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$10. 1501 Washington Ave. S., the Corner Bar, Minneapolis; 612-339-4333. **Through Saturday** —PATRICK STRAIT

FILM

THE MALICE AND VULNERABILITY OF PETER LORRE

TRYLON CINEMA

For an actor to captivate audiences with a despicable role is impressive, but to do so consistently over the course of a career is downright remarkable. Such was the rare talent of Peter Lorre, the Austro-Hungarian actor who imbued his villainous performances with a depth that made other screen menaces seem like caricatures by comparison. Trylon Cinema is presenting a five-film series in tribute to the iconic actor's sinister charisma. In *The Maltese Falcon* (1941), Lorre commands the screen as a deceptively refined criminal plotting to pilfer the titular possession from gumshoe Sam Spade (a seminal role for Humphrey Bogart). Switching to dark comedy, *Arsenic and Old Lace* (1944) offers Lorre as a desperate, drunken plastic surgeon fated to do the bidding of a murderer. In *Mad Love* (1935) Lorre portrays a diabolical doctor whose lust for a married actress motivates a maniacal hand-swapping operation on her pianist husband. *Beat the Devil* (1953) features the idiosyncratic dialogue of Truman Capote, and includes Lorre in the motley ranks of a disreputable crew scheming to uncover uranium riches in Africa. The series concludes with *M* (1931),

Mad Love, 1935



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featuring Lorre's auspicious breakout role as a serial killer of children. His haunted eyes convey a raw terror at impulses beyond his control. Fridays through Sundays; visit www.trylon.org for showtimes. \$8. 2820 E. 33rd St., Minneapolis; 612-424-5468. **Through September 30** —BRAD RICHASON

FESTIVAL

METACON

HYATT REGENCY MINNEAPOLIS

Labor Day weekend isn't just about grilling hot dogs in a backyard. There's also MetaCon, a three-day festival filled with geeky delights. While this event focuses on comics and sci-fi, it also offers excursions into cosplay, steampunk, and anime, plus card, video, and tabletop gaming. Talks range from celebrity panels to how-to workshops. Get dating advice, ask that obscure manga question you've always wanted the answer to, and find your cartoon voice. Other fun to be had includes the artists' alley, a Super Smash Bros. tourney, an evening masquerade ball, and late-night room parties. Find the full lineup at metaconvention.com. 10 a.m. to midnight Friday; noon to midnight Saturday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. \$30; \$40 three-day pass. 1300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis; 612-370-1234. **Through Sunday** —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

SATURDAY 9.1

FAMILY

FREE FIRST SATURDAYS

WALKER ART CENTER

Fall is almost here, but there's still time to enjoy the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden at the Walker Art Center's Free First Saturdays. With art and music activities happening in the garden, plus additional free programming

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31 ▶

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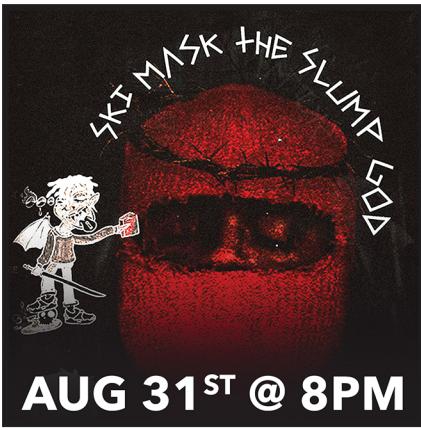
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SATURDAY

MOVIE

THE HANDS OF ORLACMINNEAPOLIS
PIONEERS
& SOLDIERS
MEMORIAL
CEMETERY

Movies in the park season is almost over. To honor the end of it, consider taking in *The Hands of Orlac* in the cemetery. The 1924 silent flick follows Orlac, a talented pianist who loses the use of his hands. His abilities are salvaged after receiving a hand transplant, but whose hands were they originally? And are the hands... evil? *Idle Hands* (1999)—and many other movies—obviously took some inspiration from this film. The screening, which begins at dusk, will feature live musical accompaniment by Spider Hospital, a group made up of members of Dreamland Faces and the Poor Nobodys. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 cash at the gate. 2945 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-729-8484. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER



AYWON FILM CORPORATION

CONTINUED FROM SATURDAY ▶

inside the museum, it's well worth stopping by. Artist Roman Feldhahn will be teaching folks how to make wind sculptures in the Cowles Pavilion, where Daniel Buren's *Voile/Toile* — *Toile/Voile* colorful sails are now on display. You can also learn to play the ukulele with Approachable Music, a group that will be in the garden with 30 ukuleles. A communal paint-by-number design that mixes art and technology, put together by Caroline Karanja and Native Youth Arts Collective, will be offered. Also, kids and adults alike will enjoy DJ Frank Lyon spinning vinyl records in the garden. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. 725 Vineland Place, Minneapolis; 612-375-7600. —SHEILA REGAN

PARTY

HEY, THAT'S MY 90S JAM DANCE PARTY

331 CLUB

Instead of a rock lineup of local and touring bands, this week the 331 will turn into a dance floor as DJs spin tunes from the '90s. The era brought us many danceable anthems, from gangster rap to bubblegum pop. Whether you're waiting for Snoop Dog or the Spice Girls, something will catch your memory and pull you to the dance floor. This long-running yet sporadic dance night features sets from Hey There Handsome and Slow Moe. 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Free. 331 NE 13th Ave., Minneapolis; 612-331-1746. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

TUESDAY 9.4

COMEDY

ACME FUNNIEST PERSON FINALS

ACME COMEDY CO.

Acme Comedy Co. is wrapping up another summer of hilarious and occasionally cringe-worthy amateur standups competing for \$1,000 cash and the prestigious title of funniest person. The most famed comedy contest in the Twin Cities is now in its 26th year, and has served as a launching pad for some of the biggest local and national names in comedy. Nick Swardson, Pete Lee, and Andy Erikson have all participated in the amateur battle royale, and all three have achieved stardom far beyond Acme's stage. Last year's winner, Nate Nickel, has gone on to become a regular emcee for the club, and it's not uncommon to see past winners and runners-up featuring and even headlining at the club year-round. While there has been a boom in comedy throughout the Twin Cities, this contest remains the gold-standard for funny and funny-ish comedians looking to make their mark locally. The finals will take place before the evening's headliner, Bryan Miller, meaning you'll only be getting the best of the best from this year's crop of talent. Don't miss your chance to see the next massive comedy star, or at least see someone make enough money telling jokes to pay off some credit card debt. 18+. 8 p.m. \$15. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. —PATRICK STRAIT

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FILM

AFTERBIRTH OF A NATION

Spike Lee's *BlacKkKlansman* is more layered and ambiguous than it first appears



DAVID LEE / FOCUS FEATURES

BY KEITH HARRIS

Boots Riley isn't wrong. The rapper-turned-filmmaker, who snuck a brilliant absurdist critique of racism and capitalism into multiplexes this summer with *Sorry to Bother You*, has issues with Spike Lee's *BlacKkKlansman*, the fact-based story of two Colorado cops, one black and one white, who infiltrated the KKK in the '70s. By toying with history to cast the police as civil rights heroes and settling for Klan members as ready-made villains, Riley says, Lee has shirked an opportunity to challenge the assumptions of his liberal white audience.

Of course, we all know better than to expect ideological coherence from a Spike Lee movie—the filmmaker uses racial turmoil the way Jackson Pollack used paint. In fact, *BlacKkKlansman* is several movies that sit in uneasy opposition with one another. Yes, it's the self-consciously crowd-pleasing comedy-drama that troubles Riley, and a fierce anti-Klan polemic as well, but it's also a meditation on how movies can and should represent black power and

black heroes that's consistently self-aware of film's ability to manipulate our emotions.

BlacKkKlansman is an adaptation of a memoir by Ron Stallworth, the first black officer on the Colorado Springs police force. We see the sharp-dressed, prominently Afro'd rookie (played here by John David Washington) score his first undercover assignment, infiltrating a Stokley Carmichael rally he finds unexpectedly appealing and meeting a student radical named Patrice (Laura Harrier) he finds even more so. Then, one day he cold calls the local KKK chapter expressing an interest in its mission and is unexpectedly asked to join. White (and Jewish) cop Flip Zimmerman (Adam Driver) is sent in to impersonate him as the real Stallworth does his work by phone, eventually chatting with Grand Wizard David Duke himself.

While the Klan members are often played for laughs, they're not utter bumbler, and if Stallworth's integrationist cop saves the day, Patrice's principled opposition to "pigs" is given equal rhetorical footing. Best of all is Adam Driver, who remains a startling iceberg of an actor, concealing depths of anger and

BLACKKKLANSMAN
directed by Spike Lee
area theaters, now open

confusion beneath an opaque scowl. And the inevitable dolly shot—you know, that moment in every Spike Lee joint when his characters inexorably approach the screen as though transported by conveyor belt—hasn't felt so pregnant with earned fatalism since *Malcolm X*.

Stallworth's story is bookended by two didactic segments. *BlacKkKlansman* opens with Alec Baldwin as a racist Cold War era professor shooting a white nationalist newsreel that's interspersed with clips of D.W. Griffith's *Birth of a Nation*. And Lee uses documentary footage of the white rage and brutality at Charlottesville in 2017 as both a climax and a coda. He isn't just reminding us that white nationalism never went away—he's bracketing his adaptation of Stallworth's memoir as an action story with a polemical aim, just like Griffith's racist epic had been. Maybe, he seems to suggest, his use of Charlottesville is as much propaganda as the Baldwin film—and if that's what it takes to crush white supremacy, why shouldn't it be? **FP**

BLOOMINGTON'S BOOMING

A 'burb has quickly become a local theater hub



JAY GABLER

I have to admit that I had a little bit of cynicism about what could be achieved out in the suburbs," says Benjamin McGovern of Artistry. "It didn't take me long to realize how foolish that was."

Three years after the former Bloomington Civic Theatre rebranded as Artistry and hired McGovern, a past member of the Guthrie Theater programming staff, to serve as producing artistic director, the results of the organization's investment in top-notch talent are plainly visible onstage at the Bloomington Center for the Arts. This season, theatergoers at that venue have additional options as the Chameleon Theatre Circle, a former resident at the Ames Center in Burnsville, presents two productions and its annual New Play Festival.

Last season, Chameleon made its Bloomington Center debut with two shows, including *Caucasian-Aggressive Pandas and Other Mulatto Tales*. "It's been an incredible partnership," says Megan West, Chameleon's executive producer. "They were really excited about having us."

The relationship between the 20-year-old Chameleon and the Ames Center was gradually becoming less of a comfortable

fit, says West, but the event that decisively ended the relationship was the venue's 2017 decision to bar Chameleon from presenting *Caucasian-Aggressive Pandas*, objecting to the presence of the word "mulatto" in the play's title. The show, a Fringe success in 2016, was created by Derek "Duck" Washington to comment and reflect on perceptions of his own mixed-race identity.

West, whose company is also presenting *Spring Awakening* at St. Paul's Gremlin Theatre this season, says Chameleon is now working to "bridge" the core Twin Cities and the southern suburbs.

Although Artistry is what McGovern calls an "anchor tenant" of the Bloomington Center for the Arts, a striking facility that just opened in 2003, there's much more that happens in the building. "There is this mix of the municipal and cultural life," says McGovern. "Right across the lobby from our mainstage is the City Council chamber."

The several organizations using the space maintain their independence—including Artistry and Chameleon. "At this point we haven't been that close," says Chameleon's West about Artistry, but adds that if her company continues to produce shows in Bloomington, "I feel it's essential that we have a closer relationship."

McGovern hints at growing pains as Artistry steps up its programming in a bustling venue that serves many functions. "Of course you like to be a part of a community where you can always expect that there's something going on," he says, but cites the need for more rehearsal room. "We really are needing to find some support spaces offsite in order to accommodate our ambitions."

Artistry, which has won acclaim for recent productions including Sally Wingert's devastating turn in *Wit*, is finding an enthusiastic audience for its increasingly professional programming, says McGovern. "This sense that art and culture should be an integral part of the community runs really deep in Bloomington." CP

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STREET Style

FAIR WEAR Catching all the best looks at the Minnesota State Fair. **BY AMY GEE**



MARLON MARSHALL

23, SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSISTANT

What are you wearing?

ASOS overalls, shirt from Rue 21, Nikes from Foot Locker.

Describe your style:

Funky fresh.

Who are your style icons?

Fresh Prince, Migos, A\$AP Rocky.

One thing in your closet you can't live without:

Nice shoes.

KAI JOY

21, STUDENT, WALKER INTERN

What are you wearing?

Everything is thrifted, top is from San Diego. My necklace is speaker wire.

Describe your style:

Cyborg, lots of denim, lots of florals, and lots of electronics.

Who are your style icons?

Mostly anime and video game characters. Everyone from *Evangelion*.

One thing in your closet you can't live without:

A thrifted red cloak.

HANNA MUCHE

24, ACCOUNTANT

What are you wearing?

Top from Edie Boutique in Milwaukee, Topshop jeans, bag from Nasty Gal, shoes from Target.

Describe your style:

Urban city chic.

Who are your style icons?

Gigi Hadid, Giuliana Rancic, Chiara Ferragni.

One thing in your closet you can't live without:

My black pants.

ALVIN MAIRURA

23, STUDENT

What are you wearing?

Chaps shirt, Vans shoes. I just put things together from bottom up.

Describe your style:

Unique. I like colorful clothes. It's not what you wear, it's how you wear it.

Who are your style icons?

Nick Young (Swaggy P), Russell Westbrook.

One thing in your closet you can't live without:

Vans. They go with everything.

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The Cedar Presents

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NOT FAIR

Can one man endure all 12 days of entertainment at the State Fair Grandstand?

BY RYAN WARNER

Minnesotans, temper your excitement. The State Fair is back, and so is the time-honored tradition of booking underwhelming artists at the Grandstand. This year City Pages decided to force me to attend all 12 concerts, a stunt that's sure to trim more years off my life than a steady diet of pronto pups. Here are my first four dispatches.

Day 1: Niall Horan

8:21—Opener Maren Morris closes her set with mega-hit "The Middle." And with that, the one culturally relevant moment at the 2018 State Fair Grandstand has come and gone.

9:02—The former One Direction kid who isn't Harry or Zayn establishes his dominion at the State Fair. Massive cheers from the nearly full Grandstand erupt.

9:06—Horan says, "Good evening Minnesota State Fair!" Translation: "Choke on a curd, losers. You're in for 90 minutes of featureless, derivative folk-pop and there's nothing you can do to stop me."

9:12—Niall Horan makes Ed Sheeran sound like Cannibal Corpse.

9:18—Not even a casual weed smell at this large-scale outdoor concert. Aggressively fresh air over here.

9:20—A woman up front has a sign that says, "I missed my first week of college for this," which reminds me that I'm missing New Order tonight for Niall Horan.

9:25—I just wrote a Niall Horan song that I'd like to share, and it goes a little something like this: "Baby girl, you're my baby. Please come back to me, baby. I'm so very sexually repressed. So very, very sexually repressed, baby, baby, baby."

9:27—Niall covers Bruce Springsteen's "Dancing in the Dark," a welcome reprieve from the music of Niall Horan.

9:32—Relevant pop-country singer Maren Morris returns to the stage for a duet. As an outsider, I'm perplexed that the billing for this concert wasn't reversed.

9:36—Morris is thanked. The crowd is thanked. We're told that our (frankly, quite believable) energy tonight is unbelievable.

9:38—Niall Horan has the ecstatic grin of a pop star who's never turned down a hand job. Horan seems like a nice enough guy and is game to please his audience.



Niall Horan

MATT SAYLES/INVISION/AP

9:42—Uff da. These ballads are wearing thin.

9:44—I'm bored now, so I'm turning to Horan's Wikipedia entry for nuggets of interest.

9:45—Holy shit, this entry is comprehensive. Squint and you could mistake this for the Vietnam War wiki.

9:48—I have just learned about Horan's parents' divorce. Jesus. I feel like if I, at gun point, had to write the salacious details of my own life, I'd have to add some fluff to reach this word count.

10:02—I don't have the setlist in front of me but I'm guessing this song is called "Dry White Rice (Remix)."

10:19—You can tell this is the encore because the song is slightly less unremarkable than what came before it.

Day 2: Sugarland

9:05—Sugarland's high-energy, low-calorie pop country has arrived at the State Fair.

9:10—if Waylon Jennings is the king of outlaw country, Sugarland are the kings of the law-abiding suburban stuff. This is the kind of song you might hear coming out of a tinny grocery store speaker.

9:22—Here's a tedious song about self-empowerment with a message of not giving up on your dreams. But what if your dream is to not be at a Sugarland concert?

9:33—As far as I can tell, the only thing that distinguishes one song from the next is tempo.

9:40—This concert is being billed as part of the "Still the Same" tour. I swear I'm not making that up just to be an asshole.

9:54—The State Fair is generally a time for me to get outside of my urban bubble and to experience the broader tastes of my Greater Minnesota brothers and sisters. To soak up the country, if you will. Sugarland are making me want to get a face tattoo and a job spinning signs on Lake Street.

10:10—Here's another factory-farmed, cookie-cut song about country stuff. I really want this nightmare to be over.

Day 3: The Current's Music on a Stick Featuring Trampled by Turtles

9:20—The Turtles open their set, but not before the Current takes an opportunity to celebrate ... the Current.

9:24—The Turtles' Midwestern-hillbilly string-diddling is in full effect early. These guys come out fiddles blazing.

9:28—Some of the free condoms that event sponsors Planned Parenthood handed out before the concert have been blown up and repurposed into balloons that are now bouncing around the GA section. Shows you just how industrious Minnesotans are.

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MUSIC

I love this.

9:40—Sometimes when I'm in the car listening to the Current I entertain myself by saying disturbing phrases in my Mark Wheat voice. "This is Mark Wheat. I'm going to fill up my tub with cockroaches and take a dip into it tonight. But first, here's Caroline Smith on the Current."

9:48—An over-reliance on soloing is usually a fast path for me to disconnect from a concert. This is not the case with the Turtles. The solos here are plenty engaging.

9:55—Trampled by Turtles are Phish for the Current set.

10:08—[Mark Wheat voice] "There are more jars of petroleum jelly in my closet than there are stars in the universe. Here's a new one from Mumford and Sons on the Current."

10:37—The Turtles close their set with the bluegrass hit "Wait So Long." This show was a vast improvement over the two stinkers that kicked off the Grandstand.

10:40—[Mark Wheat voice] "This is Mark Wheat. I was raised in the sea by jellyfish and eels. You just heard Atmosphere on the Current."

Earth, Wind and Fire

7:35—Frank Sinatra played the Grandstand in 1968. Johnny Cash played the next two years and would return to the fair for multiple appearances the '70s. Neil Young played the Grandstand in '85. A legend in his own right, Sinbad is now talking about things you don't want to say to your wife on that same hallowed stage.

7:43—Sinbad just made a goof about how hard it is to find a salad at the Minnesota State Fair. Lol. TRUTH.

7:55—So far, no jokes about being in the witness protection program for the past 20 years.

8:01—Sinbad is right: It does get pretty cold here in the winter.

8:26—This just keeps happening.

8:41—Sinbad has been on stage for over an hour. What is going on?

8:48—The marathon set finally reaches its conclusion. Sinbad? More like Sinterrible.

9:03—Earth, Wind and Fire set begins. The band are dressed like WWF villains from the '90s.

9:17—Relentlessly funky bass.

9:35—Earth, Wind and Fire sound exactly like you'd imagine them sounding live in 2018. The influx of old guys and whippersnappers in the band produces an odd energy, but it's passably entertaining.

9:58—I'm just going to assume "September" played after I left to get cheese curds. God bless. ☺

Ryan Warner has eight more Grandstand concerts to get through. Check www.citypages.com every day to see if he has perished, fled, or unexpectedly become a rabid 311 fan.

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

>> By Rob Brezsny

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19): In *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, our heroine encounters a talking caterpillar as he smokes a hookah on top of a tall mushroom. "Who are you?" he asks her. Alice is honest: "I know who I was when I got up this morning, but I think I must have been changed several times since then." She says this with uneasiness. In the last few hours, she has twice been shrunk down to a tiny size and twice grown as big as a giant. All these transformations have unnerved her. In contrast to Alice, I'm hoping you'll have a positive attitude about your upcoming shifts and mutations, Aries. From what I can tell, your journey through the Season of Metamorphosis should be mostly fun and educational.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Juan Villarino has hitchhiked over 2,350 times in 90 countries. His free rides have carried him over 100,000 miles. He has kept detailed records, so he's able to say with confidence that Iraq is the best place to catch a lift. Average wait time there is seven minutes. Jordan and Romania are good, too, with nine- and twelve-minute waits, respectively. In telling you about his success, I don't mean to suggest that now is a favorable time to hitchhike. But I do want you to know that the coming weeks will be prime time to solicit favors, garner gifts, and make yourself available for metaphorical equivalents of free rides. You're extra magnetic and attractive. How could anyone could resist providing you with the blessings you need and deserve?

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20): One of the big stories of 2018 concerns your effort to escape from a star-crossed trick of fate—to fix a long-running tweak that has subtly undermined your lust for life. How successful will you be in this heroic quest? That will hinge in part on your faith in the new power you've been developing. Another factor that will determine the outcome is your ability to identify and gain access to a resource that is virtually magical even though it appears nondescript. I bring this to your attention, Gemini, because I suspect that a key plot twist in this story will soon unfold.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22): Potential new allies are seeking entrance to your domain. Existing allies aspire to be closer to you. I'm worried you may be a bit overwhelmed; that you might not exercise sufficient discrimination. I therefore urge you to ask yourself these questions about each candidate: 1. Does this person understand what it means to respect your boundaries? 2. What are his or her motivations for wanting contact with you? 3. Do you truly value and need the gifts each person has to give you? 4. Everyone in the world has a dark side. Can you intuit the nature of each person's dark side? Is it tolerable? Is it interesting?

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): While a young man, the future Roman leader Julius Caesar was kidnapped by Sicilian pirates. They proposed a ransom of 620 kilograms of silver. Caesar was incensed at the small size of the ransom—he believed he was worth more—and demanded that his captors raise the sum to 1,550 kilograms. I'd love to see you unleash that kind of bravado in the coming weeks. Leo—preferably without getting yourself kidnapped. In my opinion, it's crucial that you know how valuable you are, and make sure everyone else knows, as well.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Romanian philosopher Emil Cioran loved the music of Johann Sebastian Bach. "Without Bach, God would be a complete second-rate figure," he testified, adding, "Bach's music is the only argument proving the creation of the Universe cannot be regarded as a complete failure." I invite you to emulate Cioran's passionate clarity, Virgo. From an astrological perspective, now is an excellent time to identify people and things that consistently invigorate your excitement about your destiny. Maybe you have just one shining exemplar, like Cioran, or maybe you have more. Home in on the phenomena that in your mind embody the glory of creation.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): I foresee the withering of a hope or the disappearance of a prop or the loss of leverage. This ending may initially make you feel melancholy, but I bet it will ultimately prove beneficial—and maybe lead you to resources that were previously unavailable. Here are rituals you could perform that may help you catalyze the specific kind of relief and release you need: 1. Wander around a graveyard and sing songs you love. 2. Tie one end of a string around your ankle and the other end around an object that symbolizes an influence you want to banish from your life. Then cut the string and bury the object. 3. Say this 10 times: "The end makes the beginning possible."

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "If a man treats a life artistically, his brain is his heart," wrote Oscar Wilde. I'll translate that into a more complete version: "If a person of any gender treats life artistically, their brain is their heart." This truth will be especially applicable for you in the coming weeks. You'll be wise to treat your life artistically. You'll thrive by using your heart as your brain. So I advise you to wield your intelligence with love. Understand that your most incisive insights will come when you're feeling empathy and seeking intimacy. As you crystallize clear visions about the future, make sure they are generously suffused with ideas about how you and your people can enhance your joie de vivre.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "My tastes are simple," testified the best. I propose that we make that your motto for now. While it may not be a sound idea to demand only the finest of everything all the time, I think it will be wise for you to do so during the next three weeks. You will have a mandate to resist trifles and insist on excellence. Luckily, this should motivate you to raise your own standards and expect the very best from yourself.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Russian playwright Anton Chekhov articulated a principle he felt was essential to telling a good story: If you say early in your tale that there's a rifle hanging on the wall, that rifle must eventually be used. "If it's not going to be fired, it shouldn't be hanging there," declared Chekhov. We might wish that real life unfolded with such clear dramatic purpose. To have our future so well-foreshadowed would make it easier to plan our actions. But that's not often the case. Many elements pop up in our personal stories that ultimately serve no purpose. Except now, that is, for you Capricorns. I suspect that in the next six weeks, plot twists will be telegraphed in advance.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Would it be fun to roast marshmallows on long sticks over scorching volcanic vents? I suppose. Would it be safe? No! Aside from the possibility that you could get burned, the sulfuric acid in the vapors would make the cooked marshmallows taste terrible, and might cause them to explode. So I advise you to refrain from adventures like that. On the other hand, I will love it if you cultivate a playful spirit as you contemplate serious decisions. I'm in favor of you keeping a blithe attitude as you navigate your way through tricky maneuvers. I hope you'll be jaunty in the midst of rumbling commotions.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): People will be thinking about you more than usual, and with greater intensity. Allies and acquaintances will be revising their opinions and understandings about you, mostly in favorable ways, although not always. Loved ones and not-so-loved ones will also be reworking their images of you, coming to altered conclusions about what you mean to them and what your purpose is. Given these developments, I suggest that you be proactive about expressing your best intentions and displaying your finest attributes.

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w/ silt band

fri : august 31
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10pm : dirt train,
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7pm : trivia mafia presents
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10pm : hey, that's my jam dance party!!!
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sun : september 2
8pm : trivia mafia

mon : september 3
8pm : the roe family singers
10pm : doug otto and friends

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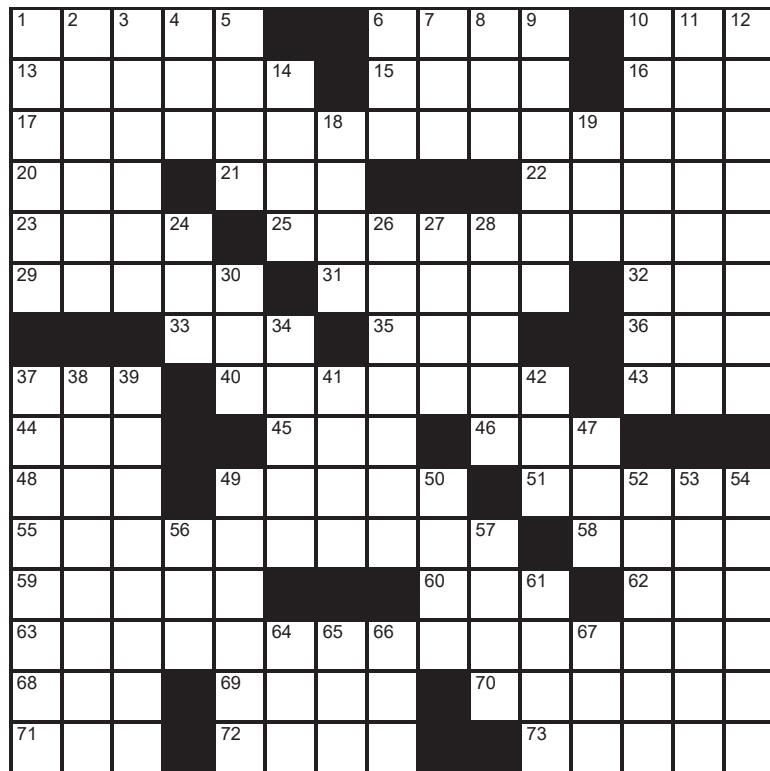
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Across

1	House style	55	Religious figures who love "9 to 5?"	28	Grp. with some stray observations?
6	Artist's digs	58	See 23-Across	30	Tight end Gronkowski
10	Fountain's point	59	Still sleeping	34	Turn away
13	Room with a concierge, often	60	Foo Fighters' label	37	Tries to imagine a better tomorrow
15	"Milk's Favorite Cookie"	62	Grazing field	38	They work with a bunch of stiffs
16	Logical conclusion?	63	Things figured out by the "Because You Loved Me" singer?	39	Color similar to turquoise
17	Question to a "Rolling In The Deep" impersonator?	68	___ Niagen (anti-aging vitamin brand)	41	Downward-facing dog activity
20	Printer's meas.	69	Unique style	42	"You get the idea"
21	"That's gonna hurt!"	70	"Tuesdays with ___"	47	Softball's path
22	Speedy Ortiz singer	71	NNW's opposite	49	Australia's biggest city
23	Dupuis	72	Cry of pain	50	Viscount's peer
25	With 58-Across, give "Believe" singer a hard time?	73	Ralph who is a government watchdog	52	"Give me a break!"
26	With 40-Across, three things you need to have a self-pampering afternoon while listening to "Single Ladies"?	51	Cookout meat	53	Art Gum, e.g.
29	With 40-Across, three things you need to have a self-pampering afternoon while listening to "Single Ladies"?	56	Garland for greetings	55	Jerks
31	Statesman Arafat	57	Many, many	61	Yale student
32	The Lorax creator	64	Easily duped fellow	65	Singleton
33	Rolls on the ground?	66	Vehicle for retirement	67	
35	Neither's partner	74			
36	Word in either blank of "Good ___/bad ___"	75			
37	Lungful	76			
38	Agt.'s take	77			
40	See 25-Across	78			
43	Rapper Chelsea Handler called "Korea's Ricky Martin"	79			
44	Anonymous name	80			
45	"Un momento, ___ favor"	81			
46	___ standstill (unable to move)	82			
48	Pitching stat.	83			
49	Transitional piece	84			
51	"Gladiator" Oscar-winner	85			

Down

1	Cheap and shoddy	51	SANS	PASTS	CLOG
2	Perfect location	52	THOU	ICEIT	IAGO
3	Ancient Celtic priests	53	PAID	CHEER	TILL
4	Salad dressing choice	54	BROOKE	PREPARED	
5	Trump lawyer Giuliani	55	KLM	RAID	
6	Two-time NBA Sixth Man of the Year Williams	56	MCQUEEN	ENHAMMER	
7	Sphere	57	IOU	SUFI	PLEAT
8	Doctor's cost	58	FOAL	PCLAB	SIMI
9	Glass-raising words	59	FTDIX	DIES	KEN
10	Must have, like yesterday	60	SKINGAMETHING	EAVE	FOE
11	Last release in Sufjan Stevens' aborted Fifty States project	61	SPAWNIN	SCALES	
12	Take everything from "Butt out," briefly	62	WISH	DOYOU	PLOY
14	Has to pay back	63	ASIA	IMNOT	MAILE
18	Morse code noise	64	TAFT	AEONS	ENDS
19	Pitching stat.	65			
24	Germanic one	66			
26	Etiquette	67			
27	"___ giorno!"	68			

Last Week's Answer



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SAVAGE LOVE

Quickies

Short and sweet advice on everything from Republican swingers to spermatozoic clingers



Dan Savage

This woman has gone down on me (I'm a man) more than half a dozen times in the last three months. Each time seems to be better than the previous! She does not want reciprocation. She has also turned down all my offers for intercourse. As far as I know, she is heterosexual just like me. What's with that? I am getting a bit frustrated. Also, without going all the way, am I considered a friend with benefits?

JUST CHILLING

You're benefiting here—think of all those blowjobs—and if she's a friend, you can certainly regard yourself as a friend with benefits. As for why she won't allow you to eat her pussy or put your dick in her pussy, JC, well, a few things spring to mind. She could be one of those women who love to give head and that's all she wants from a casual partner. Or she could have body-image issues. Or she could have a sexually transmitted infection, and she'd rather blow than disclose. Or she might be unwilling to risk pregnancy. Or she could be intersex or trans and not ready to open up. If you enjoy those blowjobs—if you're enjoying the benefits—focus on what you are getting instead of what you're not.

I'm a happily married 35-year-old mom. I have a loving and devoted husband. Recently, I started a job to get out of the house more and interact with more people. Well, it turns out my new boss is a real hottie. I have a crush on him and often find myself fantasizing about him. While I know these feelings can be normal, I tend to fixate/obsess. I'm basically looking for advice on how to move past this crush or maybe find a more productive outlet.

NEWBIE FANTASIZING

Here's a more productive outlet: Turn out the lights, climb on top of your husband, get him hard, then sink your pussy down on his cock and ride him while you fantasize about your boss. (Perhaps this is better described as a more productive inlet?) Bonus points if you and your husband are both secure enough in your marriage and cognizant enough of reality to regard crushes on others as normal and, so long as they remain crushes, not a threat to your marriage or commitment. Because then you can talk dirty with your husband about your boss—he can even pretend to be your boss—while you ride your husband's cock.

My husband and I occasionally go to swingers clubs. I don't want to inadvertently fuck any Trump supporters, but I hate the idea of bringing up politics and killing everyone's collective boner. Any suggestions would be appreciated!

OCCASIONALLY SWINGING

At the risk of killing your boner forever, OS, the organized swinging scene "leans right," as pollster Charlie Cook would put it if Charlie Cook polled swingers. Easily half of the couples I met at a big swingers convention I attended in Las Vegas told me they were Republicans. One man—a swinger from Texas—told me he was a "traditional values" type of guy and that's why he opposed same-sex marriage. Fun fact: His wife was off fucking someone else's husband while we were chitchatting in the hotel bar. Good times.

ACTIVELY LOOKING

No.

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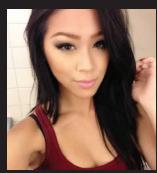
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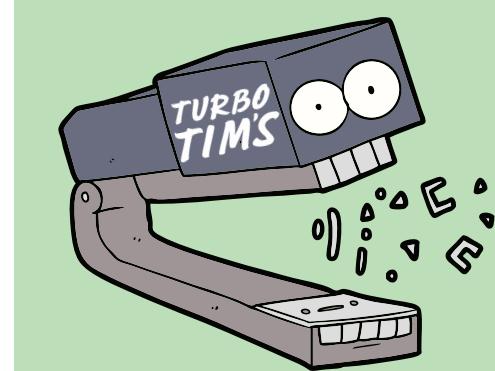
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